

Saudi envoys to explain Mecca events

Bahrain (R) — Saudi Arabia's launched a diplomatic drive on Sunday aimed at countering Iranian accusations that it was responsible for violence in the Holy City of Mecca in which hundreds of pilgrims were killed. Saudi envoys called on leaders in Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar and North Yemen to explain what happened, news agencies said. Saudi officials were also due to visit other Arab and Islamic countries. An official Saudi statement on Saturday repeated denial that Saudi security forces opened fire on Iranian pilgrims outside Mecca's Grand Mosque on July 31. It says Iranians holding an illegal demonstration attacked security forces and other pilgrims and more than 400 people died, mostly trampled underfoot, in the ensuing confusion. Saudi Arabia said last week the kingdom would send messages to leaders of Arab and Islamic states on the causes of the violence. It has rallied the support of most Arab states but seeks full Islamic backing. Its United States ambassador, Prince Bandar Ibn Sultan, said in Washington that 44 Muslim heads of state contacted by King Fahd had condemned the Iranian actions in Mecca.

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King condoles Chamoun family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday sent a cable to Dani Chamoun expressing condolences over the death of his father, former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun. In his cable, the King asked Mr. Chamoun, the second son of the former president who died on Friday, to convey his sympathy to the family of the late leader (Related story on page 2).

Iraq says 3 killed by Iranian artillery

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Sunday three civilians were killed and five wounded when long-range Iranian artillery shelled the northeastern town of Qala Diza. A high command communiqué also said the Iranians shelled the southern city of Basra, damaging houses and other property. Iran claimed on Wednesday its forces had seized strategic heights in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan near Qala Diza and Dukhan Dam and brought the towns within range of their artillery. The Iraqi communiqué made no mention of any major ground fighting but said Iraqi warplanes and helicopter gunships flew 112 combat missions on Sunday.

TASS assails Reagan's call

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's "provocative" suggestion that the Kremlin tear down the Berlin Wall "can only be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of an independent country," TASS said Sunday. The official news agency was responding to Mr. Reagan's remarks in his weekly radio broadcast Saturday. Mr. Reagan said Mikhail S. Gorbachev could truly demonstrate "glasnost," the Soviet leader's policy of openness on selected topics, by dismantling the Berlin Wall and clearing the way for movement between East and West.

New U.S. envoy arrives in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Hume A. Horan, the new U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, arrived this weekend, 10 years after serving as deputy chief of mission in the kingdom. The U.S. embassy reported Sunday. Mr. Horan, 53, must present his credentials to King Fahd before officially assuming the post of ambassador. He replaces Walter Leon Cutler, who has already left the kingdom. A graduate of Harvard, Mr. Horan is a career diplomat, and an Arab who has served in several Arab and Muslim capitals.

U.S. fleet in Egypt for war games

ALEXANDRIA (R) — The U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga and three other warships arrived on Sunday for joint land-air and sea manoeuvres in Egypt. American consulate sources said. Defense Department officials in Washington said about 9,000 U.S. troops and a similar number of Egyptians were expected to take part in the war games, codenamed Bright Star '87, which began on Aug. 15. The other U.S. warships taking part are the frigates Benson and Connolly and the cruiser Virginia.

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Israeli gunships attack South Lebanese village

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships on Sunday attacked a village in southern Lebanon inflicting an unknown number of casualties, according to reports reaching here from the south.

Local radio stations said the 45-minute air raid started at 1500 GMT.

Several Israeli gunships bombed residential houses on the edges of Soultané, one kilometre north of Tibnin and about 17 kilometres north of the Israeli border, the radios added. The radios said Israeli helicopters drew anti-aircraft fire from the Shite Amal militiamen in the area.

In Tel Aviv, an army spokesman claimed Israeli helicopter gunships attacked the headquarters of guerrilla groups connected with the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) in

day's attack. Guerrillas in Lebanon fired a Soviet-designed Katyusha rocket into northern Israel, an Israeli army spokesman said. He said there were no reports of injuries or damage and declined to say where the rocket fell.

Military censors apparently delayed publication of Sunday's Katyusha attacks until the raid on Lebanon was over.

The spokesman said several other Katyusha rockets fired at the same time landed in southern Lebanon, beyond Israel's self-styled "security zone."

Israel established the zone, a 10-to-15-kilometre wide strip of land north of the Lebanese border, when it withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985 following a three-year occupation.

The "security zone" is patrolled by Israeli troops and the SLA militia.

About one hour before Sun-

U.S.-guarded flotilla makes silent voyage towards Kuwait

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Three Kuwaiti tankers and their U.S. warship escorts — running with lights out and radios silent — sailed Sunday into northern Gulf waters where numerous ships have been attacked or suffered damage from floating mines.

As darkness fell over the Gulf, the six-ship convoy began the final and perhaps most precarious leg of its 880-kilometre voyage that was due to end at Kuwait's main offshore oil terminal early Monday.

Shipping sources said the convoy, not required to use a deep channel, would steer well clear of tiny Farsi Island, which Iran has used as a base for assaults by speedboat-borne commandos against Gulf shipping, and is considered a dangerous area for mines. U.S. naval officers say one of the tankers in the convoy was attacked by Iranian planes near the island in 1984.

"The ships are blacked out and maintaining radio silence," reported a shipping source, who has kept touch with communications monitors since the group passed through the Strait of Hormuz, the entrance to the Gulf, on Saturday.

In an interview broadcast by Tehran Radio and monitored in London and Cyprus, Iran's Prime Minister Hussein Musavi said the vital oil waterway would remain "full of mines" as long as Western countries maintained a military presence.

The United States, France, Britain, and the Soviet Union all have naval units in or just outside the Gulf.

"As long as the superpowers intend to be present there and as long as they intend to act against countries of the region, the Persian Gulf will remain full of mines and continue to be a dangerous region for ships," Mr. Musavi said.

Shipping sources told Reuters that helicopters flying ahead of the six-ship convoy were dragging sonar devices through the water to try to detect any mines, now regarded as the main hazard on the last stage of the 880-kilometre voyage.

"The ships are blacked out and maintaining radio silence," reported a shipping source, who has kept touch with communications

Rafsanjani: Iran wants to keep Hormuz open

BONN (Agencies) — Iran will close the Strait of Hormuz if its ships are prevented from using the waterway, a leading West German newspaper quoted Tehran's parliamentary speaker as saying Sunday.

But Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also said Iran wanted to keep the waterway open as long as its ships could pass through the strait unhampered, according to the Bonn-based Die Welt newspaper.

"Of course we are interested in keeping the Strait of Hormuz open," Die Welt quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

"Our position is simple: if we are unable to use the Persian Gulf for exporting our oil, then why should we not simply close the strait? We say either the strait

should be open to everyone or to no-one," he was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The interview is to appear in Die Welt's Monday editions. Excerpts were telezed to Bonn-based news organisations in advance Sunday.

Die Welt did not say where the interview took place.

Iran has deployed Chinese-made Silkworm missiles along its shores on the 40-kilometre-wide Strait of Hormuz. These missiles have a range of 80 kilometres and could target any vessel passing through the strait. Another possibility suggested by military experts is that Iran could plant mines in the waterway and hinder passage of ships.

The Defense Department, which told reporters in Washington on Friday that the convoy would not leave for at least a week, refused a say whether the surprise departure was a change of plan or a deliberate attempt to mislead Iran.

It also declined to discuss how it was coping with sea mines of the kind which holed the reflagged supertanker Bridgeton on the first run, saying only that its nine-ship task force in the Gulf had minesweeping capabilities.

Kuwait, which supports Iraq in its war with Iran, asked the United States to protect its shipping after a string of Iranian attacks.

The nation's largest union has not restricted its strike to the 28 gold and 18 coal mines where it says 95.77 of its 261,901 paid-up members voted to strike. It also has called for strikes at gold and coal mines where it is not recognised and estimates 300,000 miners could be off the job by mid-week.

Union officials at 12 additional mines where the union has declared a dispute have been instructed to begin strike ballots Monday. Those mines produce platinum, chrome, uranium and diamonds, and include the giant De Beers diamond con-

glomerate.

Cyril Ramaphosa, general-secretary of the NUM, told his members to begin evacuating the mine dormitories Monday morning to reduce violence. The move also would make the strike easier to enforce because the miners could not be induced to work.

The 700,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) warned Saturday that government interference with the strike could spur sympathy walkouts in other industries.

The chamber of mines, repre-

Prince Faisal weds Alia Tabaa today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal ibn Hussein, the second son of His Majesty the King, and Miss Alia Tawfiq Sabri Tabaa will get married today, a Royal Decree issued on Sunday said.

The decree said the Royal Court seizes the opportunity to send heartfelt felicitations to Prince Faisal and Miss Tabaa, His Majesty the King and the people of Jordan.

Prince Faisal, 24, and Miss Tabaa, 23, were engaged on Jan. 30.

The Prince graduated from a British Royal Air Force Academy in July bagging five of seven awards earmarked for excelling students.

The Jordan Times takes this occasion to wish Prince Faisal and Miss Tabaa a most happy wedded life.



Israeli soldier wounded in Nablus attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier

was injured Sunday when unidentified men hurled a fire bomb at his vehicle and set it ablaze in the occupied West Bank town of Nablus, reports said.

The sources said the mine-hunting helicopters were operating from the warships in the convoy and gave far more protection than the first convoy received.

The Bridgeton's brush with a mine embarrassed the Americans because they were not adequately prepared to cope with the threat of mines.

The sources told Reuters that helicopters flying ahead of the six-ship convoy were dragging sonar devices through the water to try to detect any mines, now regarded as the main hazard on the last stage of the 880-kilometre voyage.

"The ships are blacked out and maintaining radio silence," reported a shipping source, who has kept touch with communications

Shultz aide in Israel on mission said aimed at pushing for peace conference

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior aide to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has arrived in Israel to try to persuade Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to accept an international Middle East peace conference, U.S. officials said Sunday.

Israeli newspapers said Mr. Hill would hold "in-depth" talks with Israeli leaders.

Mr. Shamir rejects efforts by Mr. Peres, Europe and most Arab countries to convene a U.N.-sponsored conference.

Until recently, Washington was cool to the idea of a conference attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — including the Soviet Union — but has changed its view at the urging of Mr. Peres, Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Shultz last week said he

Palestinian student admits killing Zafer Al Masri

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Television broadcast an interview on Sunday with a jailed Palestinian student it said had admitted killing an Arab mayor last year in the occupied West Bank.

The television's Arabic-language service identified the prisoner as Muaid Samad, 25, who had shot Zafer Al Masri, mayor of Nablus, in March 1986, on orders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

"I shot Al Masri... I'm not sorry about the shooting," Samad said during the interview. He said he killed Mr. Masri for symbolising efforts to weaken the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Masri accepted the appointment three months before his murder because he said the city, the West Bank's largest, was neglected for three years while Israel ran its affairs. He said his appointment had the support of Jordan and the PLO.

Samad said his cause had benefited because he would be Palestinian candidate for mayor of other West Bank towns which drew as a result.

Another guerrilla identified by the television as 31-year-old Ahmad Hanani admitted killing an Israeli army canteen worker in Nablus in 1985 and driving an Israeli getaway car after the murder of Mr. Masri.

The company has supplied electricity to both areas since Ottoman Turkish rule over Palestine and does not want to concede any part of its franchise when its 60-year concession ends this year.

Israeli officials say they do not want a Palestinian firm to control the flow of electricity in time of war to Jews who moved into the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem after the areas were occupied by Israel in 1967.

Israel appears anxious to avoid any international outcry by taking over the debt-ridden company, which currently supplies 65,000 Arabs and 35,000 Jews with electricity.

Palestinians have said Israel has prevented the firm from buying new equipment and forced it to purchase from Israel 90 per cent of the electricity it distributes.

Israeli officials blame "inefficiency" and overstaffing at the company, which employs 450 people, for the firm's \$20 million debt to Israel's electric company and believe the firm will eventually be forced to accept the plan, which must be approved by parliament.

Israel cuts franchise of Jerusalem electricity company

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's cabinet on Sunday endorsed a plan to prevent the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDECO), the largest Palestinian firm in the occupied territories, from supplying electricity to Jews.

The plan would give the firm a 10-year concession but turn over to Israel the supply of electricity in time of war to Jews who moved into the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem after the areas were occupied by Israel in 1967.

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Black miners poised for massive strike in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The National Union of Miners (NUM) said 200,000 black miners were to abandon 46 gold and coal mines Sunday night in South Africa's biggest strike ever.

But Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani also said Iran wanted to keep the waterway open as long as its ships could pass through the strait unhampered, according to the Bonn-based Die Welt newspaper.

"Of course we are interested in keeping the Strait of Hormuz open," Die Welt quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

"Our position is simple: if we are unable to use the Persian Gulf for exporting our oil, then why should we not simply close the strait? We say either the strait

should be open to everyone or to no-one," he was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The interview is to appear in Die Welt's Monday editions. Excerpts were telezed to Bonn-based news organisations in advance Sunday.

Die Welt did not say where the interview took place.

Iran has deployed Chinese-made Silkworm missiles along its shores on the 40-kilometre-wide Strait of Hormuz. These missiles have a range of 80 kilometres and could target any vessel passing through the strait. Another possibility suggested by military experts is that Iran could plant mines in the waterway and hinder passage of ships.

The Defense Department, which

told reporters in Washington on Friday that the convoy would not leave for at least a week, refused a say whether the surprise departure was a change of plan or a deliberate attempt to mislead Iran.

Chad claims capture of Aouzou town from Libya

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad says its troops have recaptured the town of Aouzou from Libya, breaking Tripoli's 14-year grip on a disputed desert region along the border between the two countries.

A military statement read on state-run N'Djamena Radio Saturday night said government forces retook the remote desert town after blunting a Libyan advance on Bardai, some 70 kilometres south of Aouzou.

"The barbaric troops of Tripoli are at this very moment suffering total defeat on Chadian soil," the statement added.

The announcement brought hundreds of cheering people onto the streets of the capital of N'Djamena to celebrate what the radio called the "liberation of the Aouzou town of martyrs."

Aouzou is the administrative capital of the so-called Aouzou Strip, a 110,000-square kilometre region annexed by Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi in 1973.

The strip was the last part of northern Chad still controlled by Libyan forces, who were driven from their other military strongholds in the central African country after a string of battles in January and March.

Its recapture, if confirmed, would mark a humiliating end of Libya's long involvement in Chad. Both Chad and Libya claim the Aouzou Strip as an integral part of their territories.

It was not immediately clear, however, whether forces loyal to Chadian President Hissene Habre had also captured a key Libyan air-base located north of Aouzou town.

The installation, whose hard surface landing strip military maps show straddling the Chad-Libyan border, is Libya's last remaining stronghold in northern Chad.

Western military experts say the base is defended by several thousand Libyan troops and would have to be taken before Chad could claim to thoroughly control the Aouzou Strip.

In Paris, the French Defence Ministry said it could not confirm the Chadian claim of victory at Aouzou.

France has some 1,200 men in its former African colony and has provided extensive logistical aid to the Chadian army, playing a crucial support role in its steady northwards drive over the past eight months.

Mr. Habre, appealing to France not to scale down its military involvement in its former

colony, last month said Libya had massed around 10,000 troops in the Aouzou region.

The Chadian president has repeatedly vowed to retake the whole of the Aouzou area, brushing aside French advice that control of the region should be decided by diplomacy or arbitration.

In its announcement Saturday night, N'Djamena Radio said Chadian National Armed Forces (FANT) had captured Aouzou town after a clash with Libyan troops moving towards Chadian positions near Bardai.

It said a Libyan column had started advancing early Saturday morning on Bardai, an oasis town in the northern foothills of the rugged Tibesti Mountain range.

After retaking the advance, Chadian troops then moved to take Aouzou, the radio said.

The reported Chadian victory came only two days after the N'Djamena government said it was putting its armed forces on alert because it feared a new outbreak of fighting.

It said Libya had been massing troops in both the Aouzou region and along the country's eastern border with Sudan.

A statement issued after an emergency cabinet meeting in N'Djamena on Thursday said the danger of a Libyan attack was imminent.

New crisis strains Sudan's coalition

KHARTOUM (R) — Relations between Sudan's ruling coalition partners have come under severe strain with the senior group taking a Supreme Council seat from the junior.

Umma, senior partner in the 15-month-old government, defied the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Friday when it won lawyer Mirghani Al Nasri a Supreme Council seat previously held by the DUP.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi told a hastily-summoned news conference that he had tried in vain to persuade the DUP to drop their nominee for the seat, Ahmad Al Sayed Hamad. Umma says he worked closely with deposed president Jaafar Numeiri.

Numeiri was ousted after 16 years in power in an April 1985 coup. The 15-month-old Mahdi coalition links two of Sudan's

oldest and most influential political groups, who took turns in office during spells of democratic rule in the 1950s and 1960s.

Mr. Nasri's election, which followed the resignation of Mohammed Abdullah Yassin in June, has left the DUP with only Supreme Council President Ahmad Al Mirghani.

The other three on the council, a collective and largely ceremonial presidency, are Umma's Idris Al Bana, Ali Hassan Tajeeddin and southern Sudanese politician Pacific Loli.

The deputy prime minister and interior minister, DUP Secretary General Sidahmed Al Hussein, described the council vote as "a surprise and a turning point" for the coalition.

Mr. Mahdi, who is also Umma leader, sought to play down the impact of Mr. Nasri's election but he blamed the DUP for the embarrassing defeat of its candidate.

The latest jolt in Umma-DUP relations followed public bickering between the two parties which, say Western diplomats, stems largely from their sheer size.

"It's like American Democrats and Republicans in one government. No one government can bold them both," one said.

Central to their discord is the issue of relations with Egypt, the northern neighbour which for centuries has maintained close ties with Sudan, mainly because of its control over the middle reaches of the River Nile, the lifeline of the desert Egypt.

DUP favours special ties with Egypt with an eye to a eventual union. Mr. Mahdi's Umma emphasises cordial ties with all of Sudan's eight neighbours, including Libya.

U.K. paper describes abduction of Vanunu

LONDON (R) — Alleged Israeli nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu was lured to Rome and abducted by Israeli secret agents last autumn after he had told his story to the London Sunday Times, the newspaper said.

The paper said it had obtained new evidence showing that Mossad, the Israeli secret service, kidnapped Vanunu and brought him back to Israel where he is facing trial on charges of espionage and treason later this month.

Vanunu, a former technician at Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear plant, told the Sunday Times

last September the Jewish state was producing nuclear weapons on a large scale.

Before the story was published on Oct. 5, a Mossad agent calling herself "Cindy" befriended Vanunu in London and, promising him sex, persuaded him to accompany her on a flight to Italy, the paper said.

In Rome, she took him to a flat in a cheap apartment block where he was seized and held down by two men while she injected him with an anaesthetic, it said, adding that he was later chained and smuggled out of Italy.

The abduction was ordered by Israel's then prime minister, Shimon Peres, who told Mossad to get Vanunu back alive, according to the report.

Weeks after Vanunu vanished from his London hotel, Israel announced it was holding him on spy charges. It did not disclose how he was brought back, but said no British law was broken.

Vanunu, in a message written on the palm of his hand, told reporters on his way to a closed court hearing last December that he was abducted by Israeli agents in Rome.

He meant the violence which cost more than 5,000 lives in the late 1970s when Mr. Ecevit and Mr. Demirel held office, and which prompted the military takeover. Rather than say so, he simply urged people to use their votes responsibly.

If freed from their bonds, both men are expected to lead parties to which they already have close links — Mr. Ecevit, the Democratic Left Party headed by his wife Rahsan, and Mr. Demirel, the right-wing True Path Party.

Mr. Demirel has retained strong grass roots support since the government he led was overthrown by the military and is

considered in June last year, after former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North delivered Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Iran and returned without any American hostages.

"You may see on the news tonight an item about migrating birds but you will not see yourselves," Mr. Demirel told a mass rally.

With the vast majority of people getting their news from the broadcast media, this could turn out to be a big factor working for a "no" vote.

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Instruments Old Favourites

Now Music Pop Session

News Summary

Pop Session

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Pop Session

News Summary

Sports Roundup

Music News

News Desk

Day with Star Evening Show

News Summary

Evening Show Report

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Heat relief in sight

AMMAN (Petra) — The scorching heat wave that affected the Kingdom over the past few days has started to recede. The temperatures are expected to drop gradually, the meteorology department said Sunday.

The department said it expected a further drop in temperature on Monday due to a mild air

Cost of living index drops 1.3% in June

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cost of living index dropped 1.3 per cent in June from the previous month's index, according to a statistical bulletin in the Department of Statistics.

The bulletin said that the drop is due to decline in the price of food which dropped an average

Assad defends recent ruling on degree equivalence

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad defended Sunday the Council of Higher Education's (CHE) ruling that people seeking degree equivalence in Jordan for degrees acquired abroad must have scored a certain average on their tawjih examinations, taken at the end of secondary school education.

The minister said that the move was aimed at maintaining the standards of education in Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The CHE's decision, taken last week, said that degrees received at foreign universities would be recognised in Jordan only if the person had received the necessary tawjih score before they began university studies.

In an interview published in the press last Monday, Dr. Assad said that the CHE will endorse medical degrees obtained abroad only if the students had earlier obtained at least an average of 85 per cent on the tawjih examination at the end of their secondary school education. Engineering degrees will be endorsed only if students obtained at least 80 per cent on tawjih, and degrees in other subjects only if students obtained at 65 per cent average.

The minister said that this step had to be taken in order to give equal chance for students studying here and those continuing their higher education abroad. He pointed to the fact that no Jordanian university admits students if they do not have the minimum average required in the tawjih exam.

Speaking during a press conference held Sunday at the ministry, Dr. Assad said that the number of students who obtained an average of above 65 in this year's tawjih examinations was 19,387, of which 2,000 will be allowed to study medicine, and 3,000 each will be allowed to study engineering and pharmacology.

Furthermore, a total of 4,655 students obtained an average of between 60 and 65.

The minister also announced that community college graduates will be allowed to pursue their university education at Jordanian universities-as of this year, if they obtain a minimum average of 75 on their comprehensive exams at the end of their study.



Her Majesty Queen Noor gives a present to one of the children of the Home for Orphaned Children Sunday.

Queen tours Islamic cultural society

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited the Hamzah Ibn Abdul Mutalib Islamic Cultural Society in Marka Sunday, where she was received upon arrival by the society's president and chairman of the board, Mr. Kamel Al Sharif, and mayor of Amman, Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh.

At the society's health centre, Her Majesty inspected the dental clinic, the laboratory, dispensary and treatment rooms. Members of the local community receive medical treatment at this centre for a nominal fee. Some 45 to 50 patients frequent the centre daily.

Her Majesty then visited the Home for Orphaned Girls where she was received by members of the society's board of administration and residents of the home, which was established in 1986 and houses 21 girls aged between six and 12 years. Her Majesty toured the building's dormitories, dining facilities, recreation and reading rooms.

Accompanied by members of

the board, Her Majesty later visited the society's library, which is also open to the public and contains 4,000 books and periodicals donated by Amman Municipality.

The Hamzah Ibn Abdul Mutalib Society was established in 1984 as a voluntary organisation with the aim of opening a health centre for the treatment of low-income patients; a cultural, social and sports centre; children's nurseries and a girls' home. The society now plans to build a home for the care of the aged.

In addition, the society offers 9-month sewing courses to women of the community, gives financial aid to 56 needy families, and organises several cultural and religious activities for people of the area to share and enjoy.

The society's activities and functions are made possible through close cooperation existing among government organisations, the Amman Municipality, the local community and the private sector.

Olympic Committee sponsors training courses

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister and Chairman of the Jordanian Olympic Committee Eid Dahiyat opened Sunday a training course for 26 Jordanian sport leaders at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The five-day course has been organised by the Jordanian Olympic Committee in cooperation with the Asian Olympic Council to qualify and improve the efficiency of Jordanian sport leaders. During the course participants will hear lectures on the development and history of the International Committee and its goals. The course is being supervised by Secretary General of the British Olympic Committee Richard Palmer and president of the National Olympic Committee in Malta, who are both delivering lectures during the course.

Jordan barters wheat for phosphates with India

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will buy 50,000 tonnes of wheat from India this year; the payment will be made in the form of fertilisers, according to informed sources.

The sources could not provide the exact amount of the purchase but it is expected that India will supply the wheat at about \$100 per tonne. Jordan bought a similar quantity of grain from India in 1986 at \$108 per tonne delivered to Aqaba.

The latest deal has been entered into between the Ministry of Supply and India's Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC), a government agency which handles imports of fertilisers into India.

Rafsanjani: Iran wants to keep Hormuz open

(Continued from page 1)

Die Welt also quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying two West German hostages who were kidnapped in Beirut in January remained in Lebanon.

The Iranian leader said Tehran officials believed they had made contact with the kidnappers of West German businessman Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, but he did not elaborate.

West German security sources have said the two were kidnapped by Hezbollah, a pro-Iranian group.

Asked by Die Welt about Tehran's influence on groups in Lebanon believed to be holding the two West German hostages, Mr. Rafsanjani replied:

"We have influence, and up to a certain point these people take notice of us."

Mr. Rafsanjani was also quoted as saying that an end to the Iran-Iraq war would not be possible without "punishment of the aggressor."

The term is usually used to refer to the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein which Iran contends started the war.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Tehran would be against autonomy for the Kurdish north of Iraq. "We are for the full sovereignty of Iraq... the state of Iraq should not be divided," he told Die Welt.

Iran is backing Kurdish guerrillas fighting the Baghdad government in pursuit of demands for autonomy.

will be paid in the form of phosphates. The project involves the supply of boilers for the power station. The boiler deal is expected to amount to \$70 million.

The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), owner of the project, has been holding technical consultation with BHEL over the offer. The authority will announce the winners of the tenders by early October.

At present, MMTC is campaigning on behalf of Indian companies for contracts related to the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station. IRCON is the lowest bidder for the project's civil works, estimated at \$35 million.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), also a government-owned company, has sub-

mitted the lowest offer for the supply of boilers for the power station. The boiler deal is expected to amount to \$70 million.

The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), owner of the project, has been holding technical consultation with BHEL over the offer. The authority will announce the winners of the tenders by early October.

Reports have indicated that India is offering to increase substantially its purchases of Jordanian fertilisers and phosphates in return for the Kingdom increasing its imports of Indian products.

The two governments, represented in a committee of senior officials, are continuing discussions on the possibilities, according to sources.

Shultz aide in Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Shamir about the nature and composition of the conference.

Harel said Mr. Hill would discuss with Mr. Shamir the possibility of a document of understanding to be signed by the United States and Israel before the beginning of the conference.

Mr. Hill's trip follows a visit to Israel last month by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdal Meguid who told his hosts a unique chance for peace would be lost if they failed to accept an international conference. He urged it be arranged this year.

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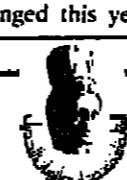
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Lack of heart donors keeps 100 waiting for transplants

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Queen Alia Heart Institute (QAHI) has a list of nearly 100 persons with serious heart diseases awaiting heart transplant operations, according to Dr. Husam Nusheiwat, member of a team of heart transplant surgeons.

"So far, we have performed seven heart transplant operations thanks to donors but at least 100 other patients are dying because there are not enough heart donors," Dr. Nusheiwat said.

In the previous heart transplant cases, relatives of deceased have agreed to allow the QAHI to use the hearts to save patients, and also kidneys to save those suffering from kidney diseases, he noted.

Dr. Nusheiwat said that only two families of potential donors, approached by QAHI, have turned down the request to use their deceased sons' hearts.

A donated heart could be preserved in good condition up to four hours after a person's death. The earlier the operation is per-

formed, the better the chance of success, Dr. Nusheiwat pointed out. He said that it is preferable to have donors under age 35. The younger the recipient, the more chance he has for living, the doctor said.

However, he said, there have been a 67-year-old patient and a one-year-old child who have received new hearts. Apart from the donated heart the QAHI has

in the previous heart transplant cases, relatives of deceased have agreed to allow the QAHI to use the hearts to save patients, and also kidneys to save those suffering from kidney diseases, he noted.

Dr. Nusheiwat said that only two families of potential donors, approached by QAHI, have turned down the request to use their deceased sons' hearts.

All the seven heart transplant operations performed at the QAHI were successful. The one death 10 months after the opera-

tion was due to his failure to take prescribed medicine regularly, something which he attributed to family disputes. He said the patient had lived a normal life; he had married and went to work. But, failed to take the medication, knowing it was necessary for recovery, Dr. Nusheiwat noted.

He said that according to scientific records a heart transplant recipient could live up to 17 years after the operation. Medical advances may prolong this period.

As to kidney transplants, he added, the QAHI has performed more than 150 of them; all have survived.

Last month a team of heart specialists from QAHI performed two heart transplant operations. The patients were reported to be doing well.

One of the patients, Kifah Sidki, 18, was the first woman to receive a new heart in Jordan. She received the heart of 25-year-old Mohammad Qatawneh.

Crown Prince to patronise youth camp opening

AMMAN (J.T.) — A youth camp will be opened for students in Ajloun area today under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The participants come from universities, community colleges and youth centres throughout the Kingdom, according to Mr. Fayed Abbadi, governor of Mafraq region.

Sheikh Saoud Al Qadi, who was 76 when he died, had served as member of Parliament since 1954.

The participants will hear lectures, take part in discussions and seminars on a variety of subjects pertaining to the current 1986-1990 five-year national development plan, Mr. Qaqish added.

Mr. Qaqish said that the camp is designed to strengthen social and cultural relations among the participating youth and deepen their sense of national belonging.

The participants will hear lectures, take part in discussions and seminars on a variety of subjects pertaining to the current 1986-1990 five-year national development plan, Mr. Qaqish added.

Taking part in the 35-day gathering were thousands of children from other countries.

The group also distributed

Youths return from summer of cultural exchange and fun

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of Jordanian children returned to Amman Sunday after participating in an international summer gathering of children held in East Germany.

The 10-member group from the Haya Arts Centre performed national songs and dances and distributed pamphlets and posters about Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites to the children from other countries.

The group also distributed



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Ghosts of tawjih

A DECISION taken by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) on the subject of recognition of degrees from foreign universities has caused an outcry which is still very much alive in the local Arabic press. Students, educators and prominent public figures all attacked the decision as encroaching on personal freedoms with devastating effects on the working prospects of the young generation.

The CHE had ruled that degrees obtained from foreign universities can be recognised and approved by the Equivalence Department at the Ministry of Higher Education only if their holders had obtained grades in the tawjih examinations meeting the CHE's requirements. According to the requirements, students with at least 85 per cent average grades in tawjih can study medicine, those with 80 per cent can study engineering and those with no less than 65 per cent can enrol for other specialisations here and abroad.

The controversy stems from the fact that the decision, according to educators, contradicts with the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution which stipulates that all citizens have the right to education. It is therefore clear that the CHE's ruling deprives the majority of young Jordanians from acquiring higher education, that is beyond the secondary school level, because of their tawjih grades. If the CHE's decision is applied then at least 23,000 students who failed this year's tawjih examinations will be discouraged from studying abroad. If by any chance some of these students venture to study at a recognised university abroad and obtains a degree with honours, they will not be granted the chance of ever returning home to serve their country since the results of their tawjih examinations taken at the end of their secondary school years were not up to the CHE standards. It goes without saying that the CHE is considering the tawjih examination as the litmus test which determines the future of thousands of students every year, regardless of the unfavourable school environment, textbooks, lack of skilled teachers and other negative factors which can contribute to the students' failure. The decision also rules out any consideration of degrees awarded by world-renowned universities to Jordanian students who happen to excel in their courses abroad after being hampered to display earlier ingenuity at Jordanian schools.

According to university sources in Jordan up to 7,000 tawjih students would be admitted for the coming academic year, leaving the fate of 53,000 others undecided. Of course a limited number will seek higher education abroad, and some will join community colleges, but thousands will be joining an army of unskilled and unemployed citizens in the country.

We suggest that higher education be open to all. And since a very limited number of students are to be admitted to universities in Jordan, no restrictions should be placed on those trying to acquire education abroad.

In fact, allowing our students to enrol at foreign universities and higher institutions of learning is beneficial for the country as a whole. These students would be returning to Jordan, still a developing nation, with new skills, technology and higher knowledge which has already contributed to the prosperity of the industrialised world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Receding peace prospects

IT has become clear that the Iranian regime is now involved in preparations for launching a new act of aggression on Iraq. This means that the rulers in Tehran are not satisfied with rejecting the United Nations Security Council resolution on ending the Gulf conflict. They are determined to translate this rejection into the form of fierce battles that would further shed more blood and sap more resources. This situation calls for intensified efforts on the part of the U.N. secretary general to persuade Iran to call off its plans and to desist from committing further actions that would fuel the explosive situation. We call for U.N. efforts at a time when we truly realise that the Iraqi armed forces are quite capable of deterring the Iranians and also giving them new lessons, no less severe than those of the past years. But we are concerned with saving lives, and so we want the United Nations to interfere and to display its determination to carry out the Security Council resolution for ending the conflict. It is indeed time for the council to take measures that would force the Iranians to reconsider their plans and their conspiracies which are designed to minimise the prospect of ever establishing peace between the two sides. A new Iranian offensive is bound to make peace and stability in the embattled Gulf zone a very remote possibility.

Al Dustour: Setting Arab house in order

THERE has been enthusiastic welcome to a call for convening an Arab League council meeting to study the present situation in the Arab region. It is unreasonable for the Arab League to remain impulsive in the face of the fast moving developments and events at different levels, specially after the United Nations Security Council issued a call for an end to the conflict in the Gulf and in view of the secretary general's plans to embark on mediation efforts for peace. It is also unreasonable for the Arab countries to remain passive as to the current plans by foreign powers to remove mines from the Gulf waters and to secure international navigation in the strategic waterway. These developments affect various Arab countries as much as they affect the Arab states in the Gulf region. Therefore, we view the Arab World's favourable response to a call for convening an Arab League Council meeting as a healthy phenomenon which has been lacking on the part of Arab countries, and joint action which the Arab Nation has been missing for a long time. A pan-Arab meeting to review the situation in the Gulf could serve as a prelude for mobilising all efforts to re-arrange the Arab home and put matters in their right perspective, conducive to helping Arab leaders to chart a strategy for a joint action.

Sawt Al Shaab: Action is long due

TUNISIA'S call for an urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers and a favourable response on the part of all Arab countries to it represent a positive step towards formulating a joint Arab stand with regard to current efforts for holding an Arab summit meeting. An urgent meeting at the summit level should be seriously considered by the Arab countries in view of the current developments in the Gulf and in view of Iran's threats to its neighbours. The Arab states which have been watching their interests being compromised by the foreign powers in the Gulf ought to adopt a pan-Arab strategy vis-a-vis this situation so that they can deal with external threats. The absence of Arab League activities in the past had been encouraging the enemies of the Arab Nation to pursue their evil plans against Arab interests, and the lack of joint political and military moves on the part of the Arabs had cost them a great deal. Therefore, we view Tunisia's call for an urgent meeting by Arab foreign ministers as a serious move towards, helping Arab countries to undertake positive steps that can safeguard their own interests. Arab leaders ought to shoulder their responsibilities and move speedily ahead to save their nation from continued dangers.

Much ado about bugging

By Waleed Sadi

NOW THAT several months have passed since the "startling discovery" of large-scale bugging of the U.S. embassy in Moscow, one can now soberly and rationally reflect on the subject of bugging embassies and diplomatic missions without the excitement which ensued in the aftermath of the discovery of the Moscow eavesdropping.

It is not really shocking to hear of governments and their agents spying on one another using hi-technology or primal methods. Since immemorial governments and quasi-governmental agencies had engaged in espionage and counter-espionage against one another. To be sure, espionage and counter-espionage are accentuated in times of war or friction but continue to thrive in peace times as well. The only difference between "traditional" espionage and contemporary manifestations of it is the abundance of new technology which enables agents of governments to penetrate the most impregnable places to eavesdrop on the most sensitive thoughts and intentions of friends and foes alike. Needless to say, capturing or having access to the secret and confidential thoughts and intentions of friendly and hostile governments would give the receiving country a head start in formulating its policies and executing its actions vis-a-vis the government which has fallen in the cobwebs of its espionage operations. That's why there is hardly a limit as to where governments are prepared to go to have access to secret communications of other governments with whom they have

important bilateral relations.

It goes without saying bugging embassies and residents of diplomatic personnel is illicit and unlawful under international law, in particular the Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities. The inviolability and sanctity of embassies and other diplomatic missions including the residences of their personnel who happen to enjoy diplomatic or consular privileges and immunities are well rooted and protected under relevant international law. It is enough to point out that penetrating diplomatic chanceries and other places enjoying diplomatic status would frustrate the spirit and letter of relevant conventions and international law. And in this context, any attempt to draw a distinction between built-in electronic devices within foreign diplomatic places and compounds on the one hand and devices installed "outside the diplomatic premises to eavesdrop on secret and confidential communications on the other would make a mockery of pertinent international law which accords diplomatic premises protection from unlawful "entry". Yet it is an accepted and acknowledged fact that both Washington and Moscow resort to satellites, naval means and radar systems to spy on one another. The practice of engaging in such espionage has grown so much lately that the world has begun to accept it and condone it as lawful and legitimate. It seems that the litmus paper in these contexts is the methodology resorted to rather than the ends achieved that separates the lawful from the

unlawful.

What is woefully absent in international law is a specific convention which could regulate spying activities and operations and serve as a guideline for all countries to observe and respect. One would recommend in this vein that a diplomatic conference be convened as soon as practical for the specific purpose of further elaborating existing conventions and international law on diplomatic privileges and immunities with a view to safeguard diplomatic premises from unlawful encroachments and to put in black and white language that would make bugging whether conducted from "inside" or "outside" a grave violation of international law. This is not to suggest that the elaboration and adoption of new and additional legislation would serve as a panacea to the existing problem of espionage worldwide. One has to be awfully naive to believe that states would abide by international law, old or new, where their national security concerns are affected or threatened. Nevertheless, a beginning must be made and the articulation of a supplementary body of international law could be helpful and would serve as a foundation for future guidelines and actions. Otherwise the networks of espionage could develop much and become so intricate that no regulation would succeed in containing it. Now, therefore, is the time to take action to control it and apply the rein to it.

Experts say defence difficult against Iran's low-tech navy

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — A mighty U.S. fleet in the Gulf could shoot down attacking aircraft and missiles with relative ease but could face an embarrassing threat from Iran's low-tech navy, military analysts say.

U.S. Defence Department and private experts told Reuters one of Iran's tiny glass-fibre or wooden-hulled speedboats on a suicide attack might defy radar and heat-seeking detection devices and hit a warship or a Kuwaiti tanker flying the U.S. flag.

"You start by saying it is extremely unlikely that the Revolutionary Guards would be stupid enough to try something like that because neither side wants shooting," said a senior U.S. navy official, who asked not to be identified.

"But this is also a fact: If they load up a small boat with explosives and come at you slowly, especially at night, it could be difficult to spot."

The problem, he and other experts said in interviews, is that a state-of-the-art navy is equipped with radar, missiles and computers to pick up homing devices and metal skins of aircraft and missiles.

Both Najib and Yap said that the differences between Malays and Chinese, although the most serious for several years, could be solved peacefully.

Yap attributed present tension to "local newspapers sensationalising our differences."

Both Najib and Yap told Reuters they had directed party members to stop making public statements on racial matters.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad, who heads UMNO, has also intervened to calm the atmosphere.

Last month he set up a "unity bureau" of high-level UMNO leaders and told reporters: "It is time we (UMNO) took an active role in forging racial unity."

He added that the MCA had not questioned the new economic policy earlier because Malaysia was enjoying an economic boom.

"Now that there is less money to go around, the Chinese blame the NEP," he said. Malaysia's economy has suffered in recent years through a fall in prices for its main commodity exports.

The president of the MCA youth group, Datuk Yap Pian Hon, said this month's meeting

was the first time his party and UMNO youth had met specifically to discuss racial tension.

"It is about time for us to talk. We can't have Chinese and Malay extremists threatening peace and stability," he said.

Both Najib and Yap said that the differences between Malays and Chinese, although the most serious for several years, could be solved peacefully.

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On a visit to Britain in July, the first by a Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir said it was difficult to govern in a multi-racial country.

In a speech in London he said: "Perhaps in order to understand the problem you should try and imagine a Britain in which 50 per cent of the population are made up of Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Indians and they want to learn only their own language."

U.S. defence experts say small boats packed with explosives and piloted by seamen prepared for martyrdom — like Japanese kamikaze pilots who sent their planes in death dives against U.S. battle fleets in World War II — were particularly difficult to combat.

"The Phalanx gun does wonders against an incoming missile, but it isn't worth a toot against small boats," said John Pike, a military expert and spokesman for the Federation of American

Scientists.

Nine U.S. warships assigned to the Gulf carry the radar guided, computer operated 20-mm Phalanx guns which can fire more than 1,000 rounds a minute — a wall of bullets — at missiles and aircraft within a two-mile range.

But navy officials conceded the gun was not designed for use against boats and they said small craft would also be difficult to hit at longer range with shells from five-inch guns.

Retired Rear Admiral Gene la Rocque, director of the Centre for Defence Information in Washington, said the trajectory of a five-inch shell is not designed to hit at nearby targets.

"We are moving around in the Persian Gulf on the assumption that Iran will not attack because they fear retaliation," said la Rocque.

"But if they decide to do it, we may find out quickly that Americans are already dead before we can hit back."

Retired Admiral Julian Lake of Santa Clara, California, former head of the navy's electronic warfare command, said high temperatures and humidity made the Gulf a very difficult area to fight against small boats.

"The water is almost as warm as the air," he said.

"The hulls of the boats and the people aboard are about as warm as the sea around them and it is extremely difficult to get an infrared (heat image) reading from detectors," he said.

Defence Department officials said a shimmering haze and a blanket of moist air which often hangs close to the surface of the Gulf make it difficult for powerful ships' binoculars known as big eyes to spot small objects at a distance.

"But I can tell you that there are people here who are as worried about small boats as mines," one U.S. official said.

Some defence officials said they feared several small boats armed with Soviet-made RPG-7 anti-tank weapons or loaded with explosives might mount a joint attack against one U.S. ship.

They said at least two Mark-3 Spectre class patrol boats being sent to the Gulf on the amphibious landing ship Raleigh could circle U.S. convoys and help watch for potential attack.

But the Raleigh is not expected to reach the Gulf until late this month.



Malaysian politicians seek to defuse racial tension

By Kalimullah Hassan
Reuter

KUALA LUMPUR — Politicians from both communities are trying to stem growing tension between Malays and Chinese in Malaysia, the prosperous Southeast Asian nation once placed under emergency rule for two years after bloody race riots.

Malays make up more than half Malaysia's population of 16 million, with Chinese forming around one third and Indians and other ethnic groups the rest.

Wealth is concentrated in the hands of the Chinese.

A year after the riots, the government introduced its new economic policy, designed to give Malays a bigger share of national wealth.

"It has become a racial conflict. We have to defuse it," said Cabinet Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also chairman of the ruling National Front coalition's influential youth wing.

The youth wing's executive council will hold a special meeting this month in a bid to settle disputes between the coalition's dominant member, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), and its Chinese partner, the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), he said.

The executive council is made up of the youth groups of the coalition's member parties. These groups exert considerable influence on government policy.

Malaysia still has vivid memories of the riots that exploded in 1969, killing more than 100 people in the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

The former British colony was placed under emergency rule for two years after the riots, which were attributed to Malay dissatisfaction over the distribution of wealth.

Lee subsequently apologised and retracted his statement but sparked off another row earlier this year when he criticised the new economic policy.

Support for Lee from members of the MCA youth wing was countered by demands that he be sacked from the UMNO youth group.

Both youth groups also took leading roles in a dispute over aid to more than half a million Chinese people who lost their deposit when the government closed 24 savings cooperatives

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Irani details part of the 'holy' link

Irani, George E., The Papacy and the Middle East: The Role of the Holy See in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1962-1984 (Notre Dame, 1986).

GEORGE Irani's book is a compact, readable account of an elusive and potentially important subject. Claiming to be "the first major attempt to examine the official role and attitude of the Catholic Church toward the contemporary Middle East conflict," The Papacy and the Middle East deals separately with Vatican relations in three areas: the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, the holy places and Jerusalem, and the Lebanese war.

Despite (or is it because of?) bewildering socio-economic change during the past quarter

BOOK REVIEW



The Papacy and the Middle East

The Role of the Holy See in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1962-1984

George E. Irani

century, particularly in the Third World, the Catholic Church does not appear to be losing its influence on the international political and diplomatic stage. The policies of the peripatetic John Paul II, as well as his active predecessors Paul VI and John XXIII, have kept the Vatican in the headlines, particularly in the Levant. But a lot of what the Catholic Church has done in modern Lebanon and Palestine has an impact on people's lives. The fact that this book was written and published, albeit by a Levantine Christian and the press of a Roman Catholic university respectively, suggests that the Papacy may have a potential role in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But what is this relationship? And what is its significance? Irani is under no illusion as to the

Papacy's clout, as he explains in the book's introduction: "The Holy See as a transnational actor does not have significant industrial capabilities or a military presence to wield power and influence... In conflict situations, the Holy See tries to mediate be-

tween warring groups and utilizes the transnational network of the Church for two main purposes: (1) to provide humanitarian relief and (2) to request the help of external powers to stop bloodshed." Of course the Pope and his "divisions" of diplomats, bureaucrats and nominal or practising native Roman Catholics try to do far more, and this is the rest of the iceberg submerged under Irani's smooth prose. The self-interest of the Catholic Church must be the primary aim of its members, headed by the Pope, and this fact does not really come out clearly in the book. Another tantalising question is pushed into the background by the author who quotes (in chapter one) various writers on the importance of the link between Italian economic and financial interests and Vatican foreign policy, and leaves the issues uninvestigated for the rest of the book.

Despite occasional minor errors and omissions, the book is worth reading, in part because of the light it sheds on the piroettes of the Papacy in the endless ballet of Middle East diplomacy. The book claims to have "researched previously unexplored archival resources," some of them presumably in the Vatican. Will future scholars be allowed further peeks? The history of the Roman Catholic Church has not always been one of casual openness, and George Irani's scholarship and the story it tells, though not necessarily a step in the wrong direction, are in the Vatican tradition. The book is available in Amman at JD 6 from the Pontifical Mission (phone 637440).

— Rami Khouri

New direction in archaeology: Glimpses into forgotten lives

By Boris Weintraub
National Geographic

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia — It is a freshly painted three-storey office building, with an artist's studio and gallery on the ground floor, two dormers thrusting out from the attic, and plaques declaring it a historic landmark. The plaques do not explain, however, why this building that housed the 19th-century operations of Franklin and Armfield Co. is a landmark.

From 1828 to 1836, Isaac Franklin and John Armfield operated the leading slave-trading firm in the south. Their headquarters, the building at 1315 Duke St. in this city down the Potomac River from Washington, and the yards and buildings around it, served as the temporary home of more than 10,000 slaves destined for shipment south.

Slavers made millions

Even after Franklin and Armfield became millionaires and sold out, the building housed two successor slave-trading firms. Not until the civil war began did slave-trading end at the site; the union army took it over for a military prison.

Not long ago, archaeologists would not have bothered excavating such a site. It would have seemed too commonplace, with little prospect of turning up valuable artifacts, and their interest in slaves would have been limited to those connected with a famous person, not the anonymous thousands who passed through Alexandria.

But, in a growing effort to learn in detail about a past society, archaeologists are focusing more and more on sites like the Alexandria slave pen. At a recent meeting of Middle Atlantic archaeologists, a motion was voted in what was called "the historic archaeology of the forgotten."

A paper by Janice Artemel and Elizabeth Crowell on their excavations at the Alexandria slave pen was one of a half dozen presented at the session. others dealt with tenant houses of the Delaware Valley between 1770 and 1830, housing for mill and factory workers in 19th-century Maryland, and tenancy and class in pre-civil war Wilmington.

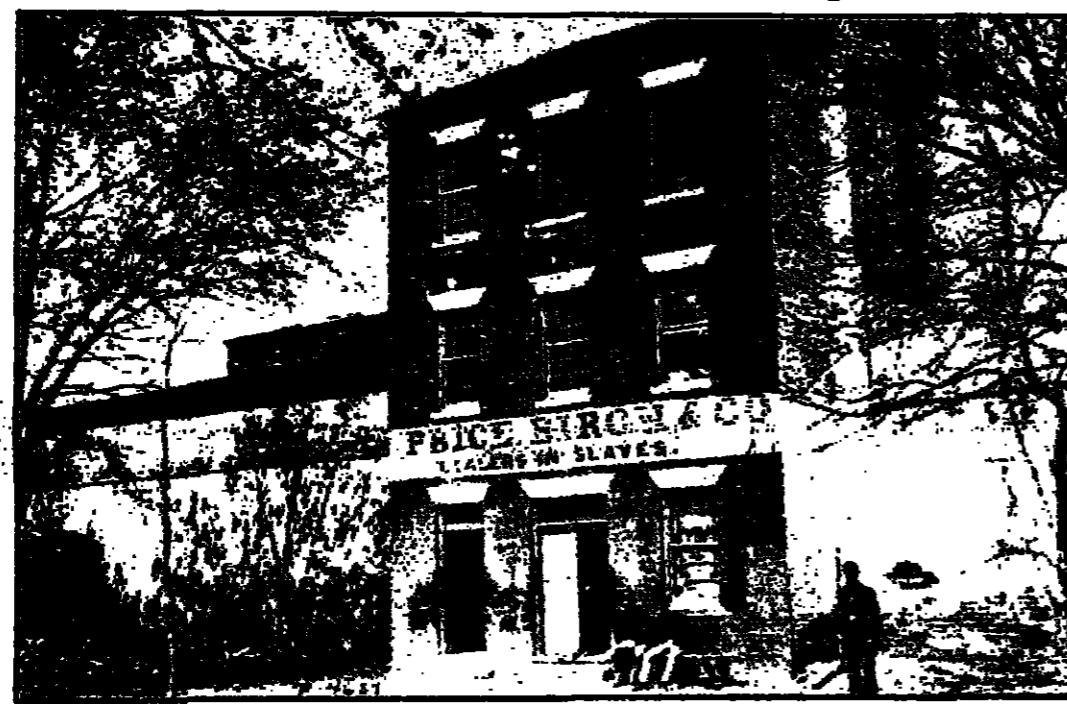
"Our goal is a complete ethnographic understanding of a site's history, to understand the lifeways of those who were there," says Eric C. Coleman of the University of Delaware, one of the session's organizers.

The difficulties of gaining such an understanding are numerous when it comes to studying tenant farmers, other poor whites, slaves, and even free blacks. Unlike the better-known elites, they left few written records, usually had few possessions that would turn up in an excavation, and left scant evidence of themselves.

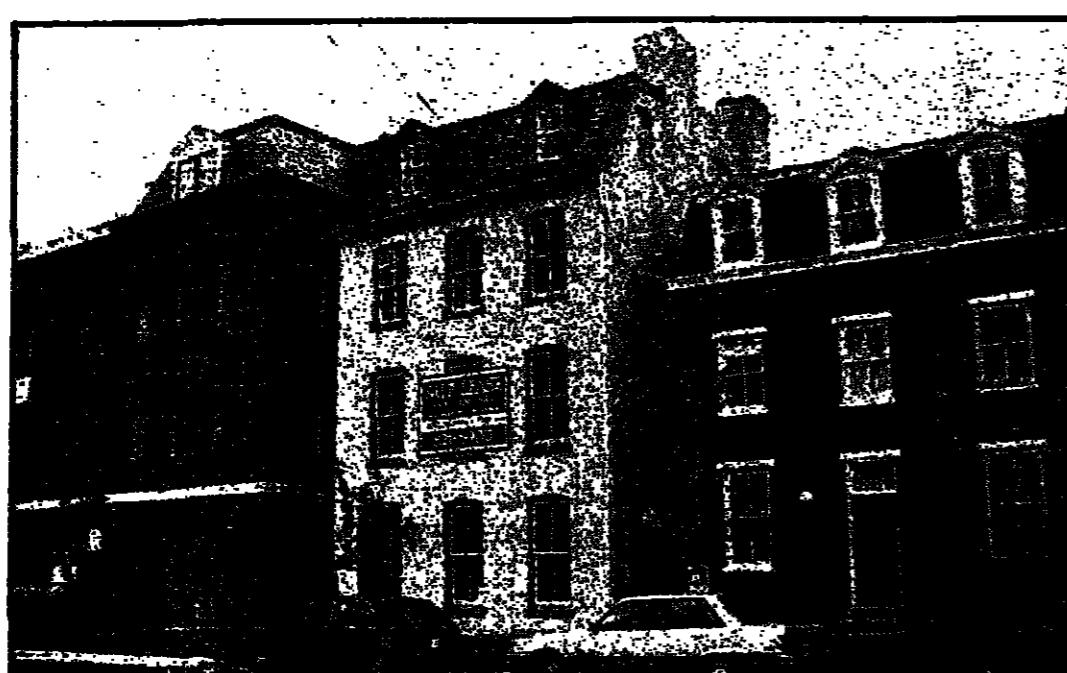
Complaints or nothing

"A lot of times, these people were illiterate, and those who were literate didn't write about them, except to complain," says Crowell.

To make up for this paucity of documentation, historians and



The Alexandria slave pen was owned by a succession of traders before being turned into a military prison during the civil war, when the top photograph was taken. Archaeologists have been studying it to document the lives of the slaves for whom it was a temporary "home." Below, the same building today (National Geographic photo)



archaeologists must comb through city or state tax records, travellers' tales, and other such sources in order to find out enough about a site to know where to dig, and why.

In the case of the Alexandria slave pen, for example, one of the best sources of information was the record left by abolitionists who visited the site. Despite their distaste for what the firm was doing, the abolitionists admitted that the slaves there were well-fed and well-clothed, at least while Franklin and Armfield were in charge, and that the premises were clean.

The excavations by Artemel and Crowell, funded by the building's current owners, confirmed those accounts. They revealed whitewashed brick walls in the men's exercise yards and barred windows in the basement.

They also confirmed that the slaves had virtually no possessions. The only object they found that may have belonged to a slave was a bone ring, similar to rings that have been found on a slave-burial site in Virginia. On the

other hand, excavators found tin plates, probably furnished by the slave-trading firm for use by successive occupants.

If excavations at the Alexandria slave pen confirmed historic accounts, another excavation turned up cultural artifacts that surprised Artemel and Crowell and raised new questions.

That excavation, of a large Providence, Rhode Island, neighbourhood occupied throughout most of the 19th century by transients, lower-class free blacks, and newly arrived Irish and Portuguese immigrants, was undertaken to determine what impact track realignment and rebuilding of Amtrak facilities in the area would have.

Vicious neighbourhood

The neighbourhood, formerly known as Snowtown, was a centre of vice during much of the period, a time when Providence was industrialising. Local records are filled with complaints about unruly behaviour, illegal liquor sales, brothels, and gambling.



Elvis Presley ... the show goes on

Memphis gears up for Elvis memorial

By Peter Elsworth
Reuter

MEMPHIS — A fan from England and one from Missouri are among the first to arrive for the 10th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death, a ritual expected to draw tens of thousands of misty-eyed faithful.

"Don't you publish my name," said the shy admirer from England, in her 40s. "No-one at work knows where I am or even that I'm an Elvis fan."

Holding a carnation she planned to place on Presley's grave, the Manchester woman said she had seen him "in the flesh" in Las Vegas in 1976 and had since been to the Presley Mansion, Graceland, in 1978, 1983, 1985 and again in 1986 "for his 50th birthday."

She said she had saved all year for the 1987 pilgrimage.

Carl Sivis said he drove all the way from St. Louis, Montana, to be here for the 10th anniversary of Presley's death on August 16.

Sivis said he had grown up listening and dancing to Elvis songs.

"I'm not overly emotional about it," he added. "But I wanted to get down here before the crowds. You can't have a silent moment with all those people."

His son Cory, 12, was less impressed. Did he like Elvis? "Sorta," he said. What about the mansion, did he like that? "It's okay."

Over 500,000 people a year pass through the colonial mansion on Elvis Presley Boulevard.

Next week, officials anticipate

50,000 will make the tour, with about 10,000 attending a 9 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. candlelight service Aug. 15-16.

Presley was 42 when he died of heart failure on Aug. 16, 1977. He had long lost the sex impudence of his early days in the 1950s and had become a semi-recluse.

The official line at Graceland, however, does not dwell on the seamy side of Elvis' life.

"He did drugs, but none of the drugs found on him were illegal," Graceland spokeswoman Meredith Phillips said.

Across the road from the mansion is a bustling complex of souvenir shops and ticket offices. Elvis songs blare from loudspeakers.

In groups of 20 leaving every few minutes, tourists are ferried through the famous musical gates and up to the mansion.

They troop through the main rooms, with their smoky mirror panels, white and gold trim, and

blue and yellow curtains. Off the living room stands Elvis' gold-leaved piano, insured for \$500,000.

They eye the three beds in the den and the shag carpeting and oversized African/Hawaiian-style wooden furniture in the jungle room. Elvis' favourite nook.

Upstairs, Elvis' bedroom remains a sanctum, closed to view and unvisited even by Graceland employees. His aunt, Delta, lives in a suite of rooms in another part of the house.

Visitors then walk past his stable of cars, including a pink 1955 Cadillac, and into the trophy room, a museum of Presleyana including the sequined jump suits of his later years. Finally, they file slowly past his grave in the meditation garden.

It is in the trophy room, however, that the visitor is reminded of Elvis' achievements and the reason for his fame and the lingering loyalty of his fans.

The so-called "Hall of Gold"

is lined with his 120 gold and platinum records. One plaque

shows off a stack of five gold singles representing the five million copies sold of "Don't Be Cruel."

Overall, one billion of his records have been sold, more than any other rock star.

Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1935 and first recorded his adaption of gospel music combined with rhythm and blues and country and western in the early 1950s.

His career took off, however, when he made a TV appearance in 1956. In the ensuing years, he starred in 31 films, which carried his image across the world, and received 14 Grammy nominations, winning three for gospel recordings.

A tour of the mansion costs \$7, to go through Elvis' customised bus is an extra dollar and through his customised planes another \$3.85.

There are also gift shops where Elvis mugs, shot glasses, guitar-shaped clocks and ashtrays and liquor decanters in the shape of Elvis, his head serving as a cork, are available.

Then there's the recording studio, where would-be Elvis impersonators are informed by sign: "You're the star, only \$9.95."

"We provide all the music, all the backup vocals and the text," explained Ramona Henley. The amateurs then get a couple of shots at making their own recording of an Elvis hit.

Randa Habib's Corner

To have or not to

THE issue of whether one likes circles or not, wants them around or prefer to have them removed, is debatable. Some are attached to the site and the memories and beauty of the circles. Others claim that traffic circles are a nuisance for vehicle movement.

Anyhow that is not my subject today. What I am stunned, bewildered and appalled about is terrible ugliness of some of our existing circles. Take the Tia Al Ali Circle. You can't miss it; it is enormous. This circle, I imagine, was established there in order to give a touch of beauty to the intersection of roads. But beauty at what cost?

Irregular brownish stones surround the circle. An attempt to give it a rustic touch?

In the centre of the circle a big iron monument bearing the number 50 was erected on the occasion of the 50th birthday of His Majesty the King. For such a dear occasion, a much nicer monument was needed. Very few flowers are planted there and all you can see is the pitiful site of sand.

Finally, and God knows why, the circle includes electric generator.

Certainly, the generator was not installed there to add to the "beauty" of the circle. If anything, it gives a grotesque look to the site.

So, the whole issue of circles boils down to one thing: if we have to have circles let's have beautiful ones. If we could do without them, then let's settle for automatic traffic lights, which neither add to nor diminish the good appearance of road junctions.

China listens for a thumping good melon.

It is high water melon season in China, and as Robert Thomson explains, that is a time for rejoicing. For the Chinese eat an incredible 28 melons each, on average, during the melon season. Although, for melon gourmets, there are complications...

PEKING — Each night this summer, millions of Chinese are gathering around television sets to report that serves as basic a function as the weather forecast... the water melon wrap-up.

It is high-season for water melons, and the streets of Peking, the Chinese capital, are lined with water melon men thumping melons to prove to passers-by, who will consume nearly one melon a day and sometimes much more, that they are of the best quality.

The Peking municipal government estimates that the city's 9 million population will eat 250 million kilogrammes of water melons during the summer.

He explained the complex art of picking a good melon: When thumped, the ideal thick-skinned model will give off a dull thud and not too many vibrations.

Xiao Liu goes in for the hard sell. Showing the flair that China now encourages, he has painted on his melons the characters for "extra special quality". He also showed his skills with a knife in what Chinese call "killing a melon."

While Xiao Liu has done well out of economic reform, a group of garlic farmers from Cangshan, in Shandong province on the north coast, recently showed their displeasure with the way local officials were managing the reforms by storming the local government building armed with garlic.

The garlic crop in the region has been too successful and, according to the official China Legal News, the problem has been exacerbated by sloppy distribution by local officials, with the result that garlic prices have plunged.

An angry farmer and his wife rode to the government building in a cart full of garlic and told officials that they came bearing gifts.

The couple then began throwing garlic around the offices, and were soon joined by other irate farmers in what the Chinese press has dubbed "the Cangshan garlic incident" — Financial Times feature.

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CHINESE RESTAURANT

Jordanians reap seven medals at Special Olympics for Mentally Handicapped

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian athletes have reaped seven medals in thrilling performances at the 7th Summer Olympic Games for the Mentally Handicapped, recently held at Notre Dame University, Indiana State, the USA.

The nine-member team, who represented the Kingdom for the first time in the Special Olympics have shown outstanding skills and snatched two golds, two silvers and three bronze medals, the

Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Sunday.

Petra said athlete Amer Ka'oush won a silver medal in the 100-metre race while Iman Fashah secured a bronze medal in

the shot-put competition. Awwad Sa'd won another bronze medal in the 100-metre race. Lana Mutwalli snatched a gold by winning the 50-metre race, Ra'ida Milhim secured another gold for the 100-metre race and one bronze and one silver went to Sihani Qaqish for prevailing in the 50-metre and 100-metre races respectively.

Approximately 1,500,000 players, volunteers and amateurs have taken part in this year's events and Jordan's team was the first ever Arab team to participate in the Special Olympics.

Monaco, Bordeaux beaten but cling to French lead

PARIS — Defending champions Bordeaux and this season's star team Monaco kept their places at the top of the French First Division Saturday night in spite of their first defeats of the season at the hands of Lens and Montpellier.

Monaco saw victory snatched from their grasp by First-Division newcomers Montpellier, who scored two goals in the last ten minutes of the first half.

Yugoslav international Nenad

East German athlete breaks own world discus record

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — East Germany's Ilke Wyludda broke her own world junior discus record Saturday when she threw 70.58 metres at the European Junior Track and Field Championships.

The 18-year-old from Halle, who weighs 82 kilogramme (180 pounds), twice broke her old mark, first hauling the discus 69.88 metres and then becoming the first junior to go over the 70 metre mark.

It was her fifth world record in the event in the space of two months and her second gold medal at these championships. On Friday, she hurled the shot 19.45 metres, just 66 centimetres below her own world junior record in

that discipline.

"I believe next season I will throw (the discus) over 75 metres," Wyludda said after becoming the first athlete to retain a European junior title. "I have peaked for this championship and hope I am included for the Rome world championships when our team is chosen next week."

Her East German colleague, Astrid Kumbernuss, took the discus silver with 63.56 metres, with Anzhella Baraluk of the Soviet Union third in 54.64 metres.

West Germany's Andreas Fischer of Hamburg switched from soccer to athletics as he won the 3,000 metres steeplechase in 8:54.83.

Nice lost 3-2 to St-Etienne in a startling defeat on their home ground. Trailing 2-0 behind after just over a quarter of an hour, the Nice team never got the measure of the aggressive and highly-organised St-Etienne team.

Racing Club Paris are the only unbeaten club at the end of four matches but have yet to win.

"We think that it is very easy to catch AIDS in the United States," Jose Soca Montero, Uruguayan judo coach, said Saturday.

Racing Club Paris are the only

unbeaten club at the end of four

matches but have yet to win.

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Filipino Muslim rebels kidnap 16 from university

Aquino orders crackdown on firearms

MARAWI CITY, Philippines (Agencies) — Members of three Muslim rebel groups are believed to have cooperated in kidnapping 16 people from the Mindanao State University campus, the regional police commander said Sunday.

Lt.-Col. Carlos Pena said it appeared that members of the Moro National Liberation Front, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the "Barracudas" were behind the kidnapping Friday of a professor, two staff teachers and 13 students from the university.

Col. Pena told the Associated Press the rebels had split into three groups and were holding the hostages in the towns of Lumbanangau, Lumbaran and Binigan, all about 32 kilometres south west of Marawi City in Lanao Del Sur province.

Col. Pena gave no details of the raid and did not say if the rebels had made any demands for release of the hostages.

Two Philippine constabulary companies and the army's 5th Infantry Battalion were sent to rescue the hostages, the colonel said.

Meanwhile in Manila, President Corazon Aquino Sunday ordered a crackdown on illegal firearms but rejected the use of emergency measures to curb growing violence in Philippine

Muslim separatist rebels. The others belong to criminals and the private armies of warlord politicians.

Mrs. Aquino has been criticised for being weak in dealing with the violence which a senior military officer says has killed at least 600 soldiers and policemen so far this year.

The most prominent victim of the violence was local Government Minister Jaime Ferrer, killed by unidentified gunmen near his home last Sunday.

A group of ruling party congressmen called on Mrs. Aquino Saturday to suspend habeas corpus rights, which protect people from indiscriminate arrests, to check lawlessness.

Deposed President Ferdinand Marcos suspended the writ of habeas corpus in 1971 after alleged Communist rebels bombed an opposition rally in Manila.

Defence Secretary Rafael Iletto said suspending habeas corpus "is part of every government's plan of action but that has not been formally suggested."

"We do not believe that it should be done now," Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, Manila's defence command chief, told reporters. "The need is for more vigorous police action."

cities. Angered by the murder a week ago of a senior cabinet minister, Mrs. Aquino told the army and police to spare no one in the fight against crime, even public officials.

"The more you catch, and the more important the person, the more you will rise in my esteem," she said.

"The more you catch, the more you confiscate, the better," she said in a speech to soldiers and policemen at a suburban army camp.

She vowed sweeping measures to show that "democracy is not defenceless."

These measures included the setting up of more checkpoints in the capital and a crackdown on arms smugglers.

But she added: "There will be no constitutional shortcuts to democracy."

The military estimates there are 146,000 unregistered firearms in the Philippines, including those held by Communist guerrillas and

Paying more for 2 U.S. bases in Philippines better than moving — study

WASHINGTON (R) — The Philippines may soon steeply increase its price for allowing U.S. military forces to use bases there, but paying more still would be cheaper than moving, said a report by a former State Department official.

"However much more compensation the Philippines may seek in 1988, it is unlikely to come close to the costs of relocation" of the two vital U.S. bases

CIA chief pledges honest dealings with Congress

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — CIA Director William Webster has pledged to give Congress honest answers to questions about his agency's covert activities but said he would not always make full disclosures.

Mr. Webster, addressing the American Bar Association's annual meeting, said the recent congressional hearings on the Iran-contra affair have created confusion about deception in intelligence gathering.

He said that, when engaging in covert operations, deception is often used to conceal the source of the activity.

"But in dealing with the Congress there is absolutely no excuse for deception." Mr. Webster told a session sponsored by the Institute of Judicial Administration.

Mr. Webster, who replaced the late William Casey as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), said there may be occasions when he will have to tell Congress he has an answer to a query but cannot give it.

"That is a lot different than trying to answer the question quite narrowly when I know what

come of what promises to be a stormy Philippines political debate over renewal or ending of the accord when it expires in 1991," said Ms. Colbert.

Her 20-page study titled "The United States and the Philippines bases," published by John Hopkins' Foreign Policy Institute, pointed out that President Corazon Aquino has left her options open, promising only to respect the bases agreement until 1991.

The five-year review of the two countries' agreement on U.S. use of Clark Field Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station due next year will greatly influence the outcome.

in the Philippines, the report by Evelyn Colbert said.

Ms. Colbert is a lecturer in South East Asian studies at Johns Hopkins University and former deputy assistance secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Residents speaking by telephone from the eastern province town said the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students distributed pamphlets Saturday asking people to support their

particular meets on Aug. 18.

Maj.-Gen. Harkirat Singh told Reuters in an interview on Friday that there were now about 6,000 Indian troops in northern and eastern Sri Lanka to oversee the Tamil-Sinhalese peace pact, and he did not foresee more arriving.

The peace accord signed last week by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lanka President Junius Jayewardene ended four years of ethnic clashes in which about 6,000 people were killed.

Gen. Singh admitted only a few arms had been turned in since the signing of the pact.

4 dead in Chilean earthquake

SANTIAGO (R) — Four people were killed and dozens injured when a strong earthquake shook northern Chile, flattening walls and unleashing a number of landslides, the semi-official news agency Orbe said.

A baby and an 11-year-old boy were crushed to death by collapsing walls in Arica, 2,000 kilometres north of the capital, where the tremor registered seven on the Mercalli scale of one to 12.

The epicentre of the quake was some 50 kilometres north east of Arica across the Peruvian border and parts of Bolivia also felt tremors, Orbe reported.

Police sources quoted by Orbe said that 41 people were injured in Africa with a similar number needing treatment, mainly for shock and bruises, in Iquique, 300 kilometres to the south.

1 killed, 4 injured in U.S. bar explosion

NAGASAKI, Japan (AP) — About 25,000 mourners and visitors observed a minute of silence at 11:02 a.m. (0202 GMT) Sunday to remember the instant when the world's second atomic bomb attack devastated this port city in western Japan.

Nagasaki marked the 42nd anniversary of its atomic bombing with a day of ceremonies and appeals for peace and an end to nuclear weapons.

The U.S. B-29 airplane that carried the plutonium-based bomb, nicknamed "fat man," flew to Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945 after clouds obscured its initial target, Kokura, a city to the north.

Witnesses said a man opened the front door of the bar and "threw in two objects, then just a second later one exploded," Mr. Knabe said.

About 30 people were in the bar when the bomb exploded, Mr. Knabe said.

"As firefighters moved in, the patrons and the injured were shouting there was another (bomb) on the floor," Mr. Knabe said. "When firefighters were getting the injured out and checking for fires, that's when they found the second device on the floor."

The bomb was taken to a police firing range to be dismantled or destroyed, he said.

Witnesses said a man tossed the bombs about 7 metres into the bar and then fled, Mr. Knabe said. Police said they had no suspect.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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SAVING ONE'S HONOR

Both vulnerable West deals.

NORTH

♦ J 642

♦ A K 76

♦ Q 2

♦ ♦ 875

WEST

♦ ♦ 53

♦ ♦ 10 87

♦ ♦ K 10 9

♦ ♦ K 10 8

♦ ♦ 9 643

♦ ♦ A Q J 43

♦ ♦ K 10 2

SOUTH

♦ ♦ A K Q 9

♦ ♦ 8 42

♦ ♦ A Q 75

♦ ♦ 9 6

The bidding:

West North East South

1 ♦ Pass Pass Dble

Pass 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦

Pass 3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦

Pass 3 ♦ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦

There is no magic about finesse. However, it is foolhardy to take a finesse if you know it has no chance of winning.

South had a difficult bid at his second turn. Since he would have doubled with a considerably weaker hand, he had to find some way to convey his strength to his partner. Therefore, he opted to bid one spade even though, in theory, his suit was a card short for that action. However, its quality more than made up for the lack of a fifth

card, and when North made an invitation to raise to three spades, South had no qualms about going on to game.

West led a trump and declarer took time to plan his campaign. He had two sure club losers and he had to take care of his third heart, so a casual appraisal of the situation would suggest that declarer would have to rely on the diamond finesse. However, that would almost surely be wasting the secondary honor.

West had not led a top club, which suggested that he was missing the king. East, who had passed his partner's one club opening, could not have both minor-suit kings. Therefore, the king of diamonds had to be with West.

That suggested that dummy's jack of diamonds might play a key part in declarer's battle. He won the opening lead in hand and immediately led a low diamond toward the jack. Since to duck would cost a diamond trick, West took his king. But now declarer was in command. He won the trump return and cashed the table's jack of diamonds. After drawing the outstanding trump, ending in hand, declarer was able to discard dummy's losing hearts on the high diamonds in hand, thereby limiting his losers to two clubs and a diamond.

The bomb was taken to a police firing range to be dismantled or destroyed, he said.

Witnesses said a man tossed the bombs about 7 metres into the bar and then fled, Mr. Knabe said. Police said they had no suspect.

U.S. to help implement Central American peace pact

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